

his 43-year career to public service, spending the last 11 years serving as SMART's intrepid general manager.

Mr. Mansourian was a terrorist officer in the Iranian Imperial Army before he escaped to the United States after the fall of the Shah. After obtaining degrees in civil engineering and political science from Sacramento State University, he settled in Marin County where he began his civil engineering and public service work in 1979. After serving for 32 years, including 9 years as Marin County's Public Works Director, Mr. Mansourian retired leaving behind an impressive legacy of accomplishments for the county. His retirement, however, proved brief, as he was quickly recruited to become SMART's General Manager, a position he accepted in 2011.

As SMART General Manager, Mr. Mansourian was tasked with turning 45 miles of repurposed rail track into a thriving rail line in the aftermath of the 2007 to 2008 financial crisis and the significant budget challenges it created. Applying his vast experience, skills and talents, he worked creatively to solve many engineering, construction, and funding challenges, coordinating with partner transportation agencies, elected officials, government agencies, community groups, and the public to meet project expectations.

Mr. Mansourian's ability to manage difficult circumstances and collaborate with independent and often times competing jurisdictions on a shoestring budget is masterful and a key reason regional passenger rail is a reality for SMART riders today. Under his leadership, SMART successfully operates this regional rail line with 12 stops spanning Northern Sonoma County to San Francisco Bay and serving a peak of 700,000 riders. This success of SMART has also contributed to cleaner air for local residents as its riders have prevented 8.1 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from being released into the environment.

Madam Speaker, Farhad Mansourian exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. His dedication to regional transportation solutions and improving accessibility and sustainability for Marin and Sonoma Counties will benefit generations to come. Therefore, please join us in congratulating him on his decades of inspiring work and in wishing him a fulfilling and relaxing retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF UW-PARKSIDE  
FOR HOSTING THE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ECONOMIC DISPARITY AND FAIRNESS IN  
GROWTH ON CAMPUS FOR A  
CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2022*

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to thank and honor the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. On April 11, UW-Parkside hosted the Select Committee on the Economy for a hearing on education pathways to opportunity. I am grateful to UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford and the students and faculty who made this hearing possible.

It was truly an honor to host my Congressional colleagues in Southeast Wisconsin to

discuss policies that help workers enter, re-enter and remain in the workforce. As we in Wisconsin all know, UW-Parkside, along with our other state and private trade schools, offer unlimited opportunities. UW-Parkside has worked with community stakeholders, including local businesses, to create innovative professional programs. These programs enable folks in our community to develop new skills and enter the careers of the future.

I am grateful to my colleagues, Chairman HIMES and Congresswoman MOORE, for joining me to learn and visit UW-Parkside to learn about the opportunities this university has to offer our community. Again, I thank UW-Parkside for their role in our very informative hearing.

UKRAINE DEMOCRACY DEFENSE  
LEND-LEASE ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3522 the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act which temporarily waives certain requirements related to the President's authority to lend or lease defense articles if the defense articles are intended for Ukraine's government or the governments of other Eastern European countries affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

For FY2022 and FY2023, an agreement to lend or lease defense articles under this bill will not be subject to certain requirements and provisions that typically apply to such lend-lease agreements, including a requirement that generally prohibits a loan or lease period from exceeding five years.

S. 3522 will allow the President to establish expedited procedures to ensure the timely delivery of defense articles loaned or leased to Ukraine under this bill.

There is no question that the Russian Federation, under the direction of Vladimir Putin has been defying the laws of war throughout their unprovoked, unjust, and unlawful full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In the three decades since gaining its independence, Ukraine has sought closer economic, social, and political ties with the free market and democratic nations of the West.

Since 2013, Putin has directed a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression against Ukraine.

In February 2014, the Russian military began the invasion of eastern regions in Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula. Their military equipped and supported separatist insurgents in the Donbass region, where fighting has killed over 14,000 people.

Today the world is witnessing the unprovoked aggression and invasion ordered by Vladimir Putin.

Putin and his accomplices must be held personally liable for the war crimes committed against the people of Ukraine.

Russia claims it is not attacking civilians. But that is a lie, as Russia has killed tens of thousands of Ukrainians, mostly from explosive weapons over a wide impact area, shelling from heavy artillery and multi-launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes.

Families are being separated by war, adults and children are being ruthlessly killed, and a rogue Russia is violently crushing political speech from its own citizens who oppose the war.

Of all the victims of this irrational, immoral invasion, the most severe long-term effects are inflicted on Ukraine's children. Hundreds were killed, and many more children have been severely injured.

Many have been orphaned by Russian bombing of residences and gathering places, in addition to battlefield losses. Thousands have been traumatized by the fear and terror that missiles and bombs bring, with emotional and psychological wounds that are likely to last decades, if not for their entire lives.

Ukrainian children who escaped the carnage are also suffering. According to the United Nations and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, over 5.1 million Ukrainians have left Ukraine, about 40 percent are children, and over 2.9 million refugees from Ukraine have entered Poland since February 24, of whom [over] 90 percent are women and children.

They emphasized that the number of unaccompanied children is "distressingly high," and are largely going uncounted. Children who are orphaned or separated from their families are especially at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse.

It is deplorable that children and their families' lives have been thrown into jeopardy by Putin's war crimes. All children, no matter their country's NATO status, deserve a stable, parented household in a safe community. They should never be victims of war, witnesses to atrocities, nor orphaned by war's toll, being left to navigate the remnants without their families.

Yet, all this is the reality for Ukraine's in-country and refugee children. They are scared and scarred, and a great number of them have no one to help them cope with the heart-breaking detritus of war.

Another tragedy stemming from this war is the vulnerability of women and girls to the deplorable system of human trafficking. Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres said, "For predators and human traffickers, the war in Ukraine is not a tragedy," "It's an opportunity—and women and children are the targets."

This is yet another reason this legislation must pass: to prevent women and girls from being subject to some of humanity's worst individuals.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 3522 the Ukraine Democracy Lend-Lease Act to adequately support the Ukrainian forces against Russia unprovoked vicious attack on democracy.

The western world must continue to support Ukraine during their time of war.

I look forward to the briefing by Mr. Reznikov on his latest defense needs and requests.

HOMETOWN HERO—ROSE BRAZIEL

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 29, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Texas-24 Hometown